

WHIP 15 PEST MANAGEMENT/ INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL

FOTG Practice Code 595

A. PURPOSE

The purpose of this practice is to eliminate or control the spread of noxious/invasive plant species to restore, maintain, or enhance wildlife habitat.

B. PROGRAM POLICY

Apply this practice for control of noxious/invasive plant species on land included in the Wildlife Habitat Development Plan (WHDP). Noxious/invasive plant species other than those listed below may be treated with prior approval of the WHIP Program Leader or State Biologist.

C. ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for cost share, this practice shall:

- Improve wildlife habitat benefits to an acceptable level.
- Prevent degradation of environmental benefits.
- Be maintained for the expected lifespan of the practice.
- Be included in the approved Wildlife Habitat Development Plan.
- Treat one or more of the following plant infestations:

1. Purple Loosestrife	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	1/, 2/
	<i>Lythrum virgatum</i>	1/, 2/
2. Tree of Heaven	<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>	2/
3. Autumn Olive	<i>Elaeagnus umbellata</i>	2/
4. Sericea Lespedeza	<i>Lespedeza cuneata</i>	2/
5. Chinese Privet	<i>Ligustrum sinense</i>	2/
6. Common Privet	<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	2/
7. Nepalgrass	<i>Microstegium vimineum</i>	2/
8. Multiflora Rose	<i>Rosa multiflora</i>	2/
9. Johnsongrass	<i>Sorghum halepense</i>	2/

^{1/} Tennessee Dept of Agriculture Pest Plant

^{2/} Tennessee Invasive Exotic Plant List, Tennessee Exotic Pest Plant Council,
Rank 1 – Severe Threat

D. COST-SHARE POLICY

Eligible practice components for this practice shall be determined needed by NRCS and specified in an approved Wildlife Habitat Development Plan (WHDP). This practice shall be cost shared at a rate to meet the minimal needs of the NRCS WHDP.

WHIP 15 Cost-share Practices:

Pest Management – Herbaceous Species Control

Species cost-shared under this cost category include: purple loosestrife, sericea lespedeza, nepalgrass, multiflora rose, and johnsongrass.

Pest Management – Woody Species Control

Species cost-shared under this cost category include: tree of heaven, autumn olive, Chinese privet, and common privet.

Eligible Components:

Herbicides

Herbicide Application

Mechanical Clearing/Site Prep

Temporary Cover

Temporary cover will be eligible under one of the following conditions: (1) determined needed until normal planting dates for other planned practices have passed and/or erosion problems may occur if left untreated; (2) determined needed because of a soil condition such as chemical residue will not allow for timely establishment of cover.

Mechanical clearing and shaping are authorized under one of the following conditions: (1) as needed to reshape area to reduce erosion after the invasive species has been eradicated; (2) as part of the eradication treatment; (3) as needed to prepare site for seeding of temporary cover or other WHIP practices and associated cover.

No more than \$20,000 in cost share may be received for Pest Management, Invasive Species Control, per contract.

Cost share shall be refunded if the practice fails to provide the desired wildlife benefits during the life of the WHIP Contract, unless the failure is caused by circumstances beyond the participant's control.

E. REQUIREMENTS

A pest management plan shall be included in the WHDP. Refer to Tennessee FOTG conservation practice code 595 for required elements of a pest management plan. This practice shall meet or exceed the Tennessee NRCS FOTG standard for Pest Management (code 595).

1. Chemicals used in performing the practice must be:
 - a. Federally and State registered.
 - b. Applied according to authorized registered uses, directions on the label, and within other Federal or State policies or requirements.

F. ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

Consider other resource and environmental concerns (e.g., cultural, wetlands, etc.) as prescribed by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other applicable laws and regulations when establishing this practice. A TN-CPA-25 must be completed for each WHDP.

G. PRACTICE MAINTENANCE

The practice shall be maintained without additional federal cost share for the expected lifespan of the practice. Cost share shall be refunded if desired wildlife benefits fail during the life of the WHIP Contract, unless the failure is caused by circumstances beyond the participant's control.

H. TECHNICAL RESPONSIBILITY

NRCS shall have technical responsibility for this practice.

I. SPECIFICATIONS

Planning and application of this practice must meet all requirements of the Tennessee NRCS FOTG standard for Pest Management (code 595). Herbicides can be injurious to non-target plants as well as to humans. Use only approved herbicides and pesticides according to label directions. Grazing, prescribed burning, or other activities as prescribed by NRCS biologist are encouraged prior to eradication.

Requirements	Temporary cover, when needed, is authorized. A current soil test is highly recommended, although not required, for establishment of temporary cover.
Herbicides	Apply herbicides in accordance with the label for eradication.

<u>Eligible Seeds or Plants</u>	<u>Seeding Rates (per acre)</u>	<u>Seeding Dates</u>
Natural Regeneration	Temporary Cover if Needed	See Temporary Cover Below
Temporary Cover - Summer		
Millet, White Proso	20 lbs.	May 1-July 1
Millet, Foxtail	20 lbs.	May 1-Jul. 1
Buckwheat	30 lbs.	May 1-Aug. 1
Temporary Cover - Winter		
Winter Wheat	1.5-2 bushels	Sept. 1-Oct. 20
Cereal Rye	1.5-2 bushels	Sept. 1-Oct. 20
Oats	1.5-2 bushels	Sept. 1-Oct. 20